

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing phosphorus from water to be treated, which comprises immersing ~~electrodes~~ a multi-electrode system into a tank filled with the water to be treated, applying a DC voltage ~~between the electrodes to the multi-electrode system~~ to generate hydroxide ions through a cation migration in the water and/or an electrolysis, and precipitating phosphate ions in the water as a salt slightly soluble in ~~water~~ water,

wherein the multi-electrode system is an operation system in which plural cathodes are arranged to a single anode, or plural anodes are arranged to a single cathode, and each electrode can be operated independently.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tank is filled with granular solids.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cation migration and accumulation and/or the electrolysis are conducted while flowing the water to be treated through the tank.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the granular solids are sands, glass beads, or shells.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the multi-electrode system is porous or meshed.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the water to be treated contains calcium ions and/or magnesium ions.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a phosphorus compound removed from the water to be treated is recovered by back wash.

9. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-electrode system is an operation system in which plural cathodes are arranged to a single anode.

10. (New) A method for removing phosphorus from water to be treated, which comprises immersing a multi-electrode system into a tank filled with the water to be treated, applying a DC voltage to the multi-electrode system to generate hydroxide ions through a cation migration in the water and/or an electrolysis, and precipitating phosphate ions in the water as a salt slightly soluble in water,

wherein the multi-electrode system is an operation system in which plural cathodes are arranged to a single anode, or plural anodes are arranged to a single cathode, each electrode can be operated independently, and each electrode has openings capable of passing ions and water to be treated.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the tank is filled with granular solids.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the cation migration and accumulation and/or the electrolysis are conducted while flowing the water to be treated through the tank.

13. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the granular solids are sands, glass beads, or shells.

14. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the multi-electrode system is porous or meshed.

15. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the water to be treated contains calcium ions and/or magnesium ions.

16. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein a phosphorus compound removed from the water to be treated is recovered by back wash.

17. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the multi-electrode system is an operation system in which plural cathodes are arranged to a single anode.